

DATE:	2022 January 24
TO:	All Zones: All Physicians, Nurses, Laboratory Services Staff
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE Medical Labs
RE:	Recommendations for Pathological Examination and Molecular Testing for COVID-19 of Placenta, Umbilical Cord and Products of Conception in Cases with a History of Maternal COVID-19 Infection

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages

- To help preserve laboratory capacity during the current surge of COVID-19, the following changes are being implemented, endorsed by Maternal Newborn Child & Youth Strategic Clinical Network and Laboratory Services:
 - In all cases of maternal COVID-19 infection and pregnancy loss – send products of conception for COVID-19 PCR and anatomical pathology examination – **temporarily suspend this recommendation due to Omicron surge impact on provincial labs**
 - In all cases of maternal COVID-19 infection and stillbirth – send placental tissue and umbilical cord for COVID-19 PCR and placenta for anatomical pathology examination. **CONTINUE WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION**
 - In all cases of maternal COVID-19 infection and live birth – send placenta for anatomical pathology examination – **temporarily suspend this recommendation due to Omicron surge impact on provincial labs**
 - In all cases of recent maternal COVID-19 infection (0-14 days from positive test) and live birth – send placental tissue and umbilical cord for COVID-19 PCR – **temporarily suspend this recommendation due to Omicron surge impact on provincial labs**

Action Required

- Temporarily suspend submitting placental tissue and umbilical cord for COVID-19 PCR testing and placenta for anatomical pathology examination when uncomplicated COVID-19 is the only indication. All other obstetrical/maternal/fetal/neonatal/placental indications for placental examination would continue as per usual – refer to the provincial **Clinical Indications for Placenta Examination** guideline for details on what may be accepted: <https://ahs.labqms.com/labFrame.asp?DID=36852&FLDVR=1245>
- Any placenta that is submitted with uncomplicated COVID-19 as the only indication will be **rejected** by the laboratory.
- Laboratory staff will reject these cases as per local specimen rejection procedures.

Effective Immediately

Questions/Concerns

- May be directed to your local Anatomical Pathology Department.

Approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, Alberta Precision Laboratories